

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 230 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

> TEL (617) 727-2075 FAX (617) 727-3014

January 3, 2025

Representative Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the House 24 Beacon Street, Room 356 Boston, MA 02133

Senator Karen E. Spilka, Senate President 24 Beacon Street, Room 332 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker Mariano and President Spilka:

In accordance with Section 12 of Chapter 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, we will be conducting a performance audit of the Massachusetts General Court (House, Senate, and Joint Legislative Committees).

The Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, commonly referred to as the "Yellow Book," are issued by the United States Government Accountability Office. The standards apply to both financial and performance audits of government agencies. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with these standards and will cover all of the topics we were unable to fully review in our previous audit, due to your refusal to participate in the audit process. Our work will start with a review of high-risk areas, such as state contracting and procurement procedures, the use of taxpayer-funded nondisclosure agreements, and a review of your balance forward line item - including a review of all relevant financial receipts and information.

Section 12 of Chapter 11 of the General Laws requires organizations being audited to provide our audit team with books, documents, and other records pertaining to the audit areas. We may also make inquiries regarding audit issues with the members of your staff responsible for the functions involved in this audit and request, from management, written confirmation of statements your staff made to us during the audit. We ask that all requested records and information be made available to us within 72 hours of the date of request.

At the completion of our audit, we will provide you with a draft copy of our audit report for your review and comments. Your comments should be forwarded to us within 15 days of notification. Also, if you would like a formal exit meeting, please request the meeting at this time.

Please respond with some potential dates for an entrance conference to be scheduled.

Sincerely,

Diana DiZoglio

Diana Diloglio

Auditor of the Commonwealth

Cc:

Timothy Carroll, House Clerk Michael D. Hurley, Senate Clerk